



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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Mayor and Chairperson

Jackie Doherty
Vice-Chairperson

Andre P. Descoteaux
Robert J. Hoey Jr.
Dominik Hok Lay
Connie A. Martin
Gerard Nutter

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Student Support Services
Subcommittee Meeting

Tuesday, July 2, 2019
City Hall Council Chambers
6:30 p.m.

Subcommittee Members Present:	Chairperson Jackie Doherty, Andy Descoteaux and Gerry Nutter
School Committee Members Present:	Robert Hoey, Dominik Lay and Connie Martin
School Department Personnel Present:	Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools Robin Desmond, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Chairperson Jackie Doherty called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m. The Subcommittee update is in response to the following motions:

Motion by School Committee Member Jackie Doherty, which was approved at the June 19, 2019, School Committee Meeting:

"To refer Item # 8.I. Lowell Community Health Center and LPS School Based Health Center: Trends and Opportunities in Adolescent Health to a Student Support Services Subcommittee for further discussion."

Motion by School Committee Member Connie Martin, which was approved at the June 19, 2019, School Committee Meeting:

"To refer Item # 8.IV. Family Resource Center Hours of Operation to a Student Support Services Subcommittee for further discussion."

The following agenda items were discussed:

1. **Lowell Community Health Center and LPS School Based Health Center: Trends and Opportunities in Adolescent Health**
 2. **Family Resource Center Hours of Operation**
- **Lowell Community Health Center and LPS School Based Health Center: Trends and Opportunities in Adolescent Health**

Members of the Lowell Community Health Center addressed the Subcommittee and informed them that they very much value their partnership with Lowell High School. They stated that currently they do not provide birth control at the School Based Health Center. They stated even though they refer students to continue their care at their other facility which resides on Jackson Street, a lot of students are not going. The speaker stated that sixty-five (65) percent of the students do not make it to the other facility due to barriers such as: sports, jobs and younger siblings to care for to name a few. Boston Public Schools, Cambridge Public Schools and Lynn Public Schools, etc. all have birth control available in their facilities and some have worked with their School Committees and some have not. In the state of Massachusetts, they stated that students are allowed to receive reproductive health services and it does not require parental consent. They would like to see the Health Center be an extension of the care provided at their other facility on Jackson Street and they would like to be able to provide the same comprehensive care at the Lowell High School Based Health Center.

Mr. Descoteaux asked if they were saying that contraceptives are not being providing at Lowell High School.

The Lowell Community Health Center responded that is correct, only condoms, but not birth control.

Mr. Nutter stated that he understands it's a difficult conversation for parents to have with the children.

Mr. Nutter made a motion to recommend to the whole School Committee to extend contraceptive services at Health Center; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 3 yeas APPROVED

Mr. Hoey asked how the Committee can help. He stated that he thinks we need to do things differently and maybe once a year have a guest speaker come and speak to the students.

Mr. Hoey asked Superintendent Boyd to comment.

Dr. Boyd said that we should listen to the recommendation of the health care providers.

Mr. Descoteaux stated that being at the high school for eighteen (18) years it's amazing how many kids don't know about their body and he thinks the district should look at the curriculum and see what is being taught in our health classes.

Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to get a report on curriculum for sex education from middle school right up to the high school and see what is being taught in our health classes; seconded by Mr. Nutter. 3 yeas APPROVED

Mr. Lay asked if we have any programs to help educate the children.

The Lowell Community Health Center responded yes and said that they have very lengthy conversations with students and they discuss all of their options.

Mr. Lay asked if we could do something proactively.

➤ **Family Resource Center Hours of Operation**

Superintendent Boyd informed the Subcommittee that he is bringing more minds to the table to discuss the Family Resource Center Hours of Operation. He stated that he had a great conversation with Ms. Duda and some members of the clerical union and he believes and trusts in the knowledge of our staff. He stated that Ms. Duda and Mr. Descoteaux (Transportation Director) will convene a Committee and they'll present a proposal to him that will deal with the center during peak hours and the Superintendent will then bring forward their recommendations to the whole Committee when appropriate.

Ms. Duda addressed the Subcommittee and stated that she's looking forward to working with the staff and the Superintendent to examine how to better service families moving forward.

Mr. Hoey stated that he feels that Ms. Duda has brought the Resource Center to a place that it has never been before and he believes the Resource Center is a jewel.

Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to accept the report as a report of progress; seconded by Mr. Nutter. 3 yeas APPROVED

Mr. Nutter made a motion to adjourn at 7:02 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 3 yeas APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Joel Boyd
Superintendent of Schools

JDB/mes